

BYU Relies on StorageCraft to Ensure Data Availability



Client Profile

“We needed a BDR solution that was cost-effective, easy to use, and flexible. StorageCraft ticked every box on our requirements list.”



Danny Yeo
BYU College of Life Sciences

Organization

BYU College of Life Sciences

Country

United States

State

Utah

Vertical

Education

Solution

OneXafe®
ShadowXafe™

BYU College of Life Sciences needs to ensure that its data is always available. Learn why the college chose OneXafe and ShadowXafe to manage, store, and protect its data.

About the College of Life Sciences at BYU

The College of Life Sciences at Brigham Young University (BYU) gives students an understanding of the fundamental principles of life, extending from the tiniest microbes to plants, animals, and human beings. With disciplines ranging from basic science to applied science, the college also offers specialized courses emphasizing teaching and research.

Fulfilling this mission requires that the students, educators, researchers, and scientists at the College of Life Sciences can access all of their data, all of the time, as they dive deep into life’s mysteries. But the college’s existing backup and disaster recovery (BDR) solution simply wasn’t cutting it.

The Challenge

The college had established its recovery point objective (RPO)—the acceptable amount of time that it determined could pass, if a disruption were to occur, before the amount of data lost crossed its set maximum allowable threshold. It had also set its recovery time objective (RTO)—the length of time between a disruption and full recovery that the college found acceptable.

“We knew that the solution we had in place couldn’t complete timely backups, and couldn’t possibly meet our RPOs and RTOs,” said Danny Yeo, IT director for the College of Life Sciences at BYU. “With those objectives in place, we set out to find a better approach and learned about StorageCraft.”

As with any university, the budget was tight. But the college’s most critical criterion in choosing a BDR solution was ensuring that its data was available at all times, without sacrificing security. And the college had to move quickly because its existing backup approach was gobbling up storage at an unsustainable rate.



The Solution

When the College of Life Sciences took a deeper look at StorageCraft's offerings, the IT team saw that the company's solution met their RPOs and RTOs, and it was far less expensive than competing solutions.

"We compared StorageCraft to several other vendors, and it was clear that they offered the best value," said Yeo. "We needed a BDR solution that was cost-effective, easy to use, and flexible. Having to meet RPO and RTO thresholds was a given. StorageCraft ticked every box on our requirements list."

The college also liked that the StorageCraft solution uses a scale-out, purpose-built chassis that accommodates commodity drives so they can buy lower-cost hardware, and only as needed.

After working with StorageCraft and its local rep, the college went with OneXafe object-based, converged data platform. OneXafe is built on a unified storage architecture that offers the scale-out storage and data protection the college requires.

The college also chose ShadowXafe, StorageCraft's easy-to-use software that delivers SLA-driven management for the data protection lifecycle and best-in-industry system and data recovery. ShadowXafe features patented technology that allows the college to boot a backup image of a system volume into a virtual machine (VM) in milliseconds, enabling instant system, application, and data recovery.

OneXafe

ShadowXafe

The Results

"We love the StorageCraft solution—the software is intuitive, with a simple management console that makes it easy to use," said Yeo. "We like how quickly we can manage backups—with a few clicks we can get them done in no time."

Because the StorageCraft solution also features data deduplication and compression the college was able to further reduce its data storage requirements. And because the StorageCraft solution can target backups to remote servers or storage, the college can put a flexible, offsite disaster recovery solution in place.

The College of Life Sciences has already recommended StorageCraft to its peers at BYU and plans to explore adding StorageCraft's cloud options when it's ready to further update its disaster recovery solution.

Key Differentiators

"We love working with StorageCraft. And we've gotten excellent, timely tech support from our local rep," said Yeo. "The price point was exceptional, and we didn't have to give up any needed features or options. We are more than happy with the results."



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